

Appl. No. 10/059,345
Response dated Friday, October 08, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A computer implemented method of providing a response to a user comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of possible responses;

storing a plurality of Boolean expressions, one of said plurality of Boolean expressions associated with each of said plurality of possible responses, each of said plurality of Boolean expressions identifying at least one condition to be satisfied by a text query, to which its associated one of said plurality of responses is to be provided;

~~for a plurality of responses, associating a Boolean expression with each of said responses, said Boolean expression to be satisfied by an appropriate query for said associated response;~~

receiving a text query;

for each of said plurality of possible responses, applying its associated Boolean expression to said received text query thereby determining determining if the an associated Boolean expression is satisfied by said ~~received text~~ query;

presenting at least one of said plurality of possible responses, in response to said determining.
2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said presenting comprises presenting at least one of said plurality of possible responses having ~~an its~~ associated Boolean expression satisfied by said received text

Appl. No. 09/750,050
Response dated October 8, 2004

query.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said plurality of possible responses each comprise information at least partially responsive to said text query.
4. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of Boolean expressions comprises an expression to match a plurality of words within ~~a~~ said text query.
5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said plurality of possible responses and said plurality of associated Boolean expressions are stored in a database.
6. (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said determining further comprises calculating quality of match metrics for satisfied ones of said plurality of Boolean expressions, each of said quality of match metrics providing an indicator of a quality of match of a satisfied Boolean expression to said ~~received-text~~ query.
7. (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of Boolean expressions may be expressed as a plurality of logically ORed sub-expressions, and one of said plurality of ~~said~~ Boolean expressions is satisfied if one of its sub-expressions is satisfied and wherein said quality of match metrics are calculated by calculating an indicator of a quality of match for sub-expressions satisfied by said ~~received-text~~ query.
8. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein said presenting is based on said quality of match metrics.
9. (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising calculating degree of match metrics ~~representative for un-satisfied~~ ones of said plurality of Boolean expressions, each of said degree of match metrics providing an

Appl. No. 09/750,050
Response dated October 8, 2004

indicator of a degree of match of an un-satisfied one of said plurality of Boolean expression to said received text query.

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein each of said plurality of Boolean expressions may be expressed as a plurality of ORed sub-expression, and one of said plurality of Boolean expressions is satisfied if one of its sub-expression is satisfied, and wherein said degree of match metrics are calculated by calculating an indicator of a degree of match for sub-expressions not satisfied by said received text query.

11. (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein each of said sub-expressions comprises a plurality of logically ANDed terms and each of said degree of match metrics is calculated by determining a number of terms in any sub-expression satisfied by said ~~expression~~ received text query.

12. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a plurality of additional responses associated with said at least one of said plurality of responses.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said plurality of responses comprises a link to additional information available by way of a computer network in communication with said computer.

14. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, where at least some of said plurality of Boolean expressions comprise an identifier of a compound Boolean expression, to be resolved into a plurality of Boolean terms during said determining.

15. (currently amended): Computer readable medium, storing computer executable software, that when loaded at a computing device in communication with a stored plurality of responses, and a plurality of Boolean expression each associated with one of said responses and to be satisfied by an appropriate query for an associated response, adapt said computing

Appl. No. 09/750,050
Response dated October 8, 2004

device to:

~~receive a query;~~

~~for each of said stored responses, determine if an associated stored Boolean expression is satisfied by said received query;~~

~~present at least one of said responses, in response to said determining.~~

store a plurality of possible responses;

store a plurality of Boolean expressions, one of said plurality of Boolean expressions associated with each of said plurality of possible responses, each of said plurality Boolean expressions identifying at least one condition to be satisfied by a text query, to which its associated one of said plurality of responses is to be provided;

receive a text query;

for each of said plurality of possible responses, apply its associated Boolean expression to said received text query to determine if the associated Boolean expression is satisfied by said received text query;

present at least one of said plurality of possible responses, in response to said determining.

16. (currently amended): A computer readable medium storing data, said data comprising a plurality of responses, and at least one Boolean expression associated with each response, wherein each of said Boolean expression identifies at least one condition to be satisfied by a text query, to which its associated one of said plurality of responses is to be provided~~may be satisfied by an appropriate query for an associated response.~~

17. (currently amended): A method of organizing information comprising:

Appl. No. 09/750,050
Response dated October 8, 2004

organizing said information into a plurality of responses;

for a particular one of said responses formulating at least one natural language query likely to be used to search for, ~~wherein~~ said particular one of said responses ~~is responsive to said at least one query~~;

formulating a Boolean expression from said at least one query, said Boolean expression satisfied by said at least one query;

storing said Boolean expression in association with said particular one of said responses, so that said Boolean expression may later be applied to text representing said query to retrieve said particular one of said responses.

18. (currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising repeating said formulating at least one natural language query; said formulating a Boolean expression; and said storing, for each of said plurality of responses.

19. (new): A computer implemented method of presenting at least one answer to a natural language query to a user, said method comprising:

storing a plurality of possible answers;

storing a plurality of Boolean expressions to be applied to text including a plurality of words, one of said plurality of Boolean expressions associated with each of said plurality of possible answers;

receiving text representing said natural language query from said user;

applying each of said Boolean expressions to said text to assess which of said Boolean expressions are satisfied by said text;

providing at least some of said plurality of possible answers associated with said satisfied Boolean expressions.

20. (new): The method of claim 19, wherein each of said Boolean expressions is

Appl. No. 09/750,050
Response dated October 8, 2004

formed from anticipated natural language queries for an associated answer.

21. (new): The method of claim 20, wherein said providing comprises presenting all those of said plurality of answers having their associated Boolean expression satisfied by said natural language query.

22. (new): The method of claim 20, wherein each of said plurality of Boolean expressions comprises an expression to match a plurality of words within said natural language query.

23. (new): The method of claim 22, wherein said plurality of possible answers, said plurality of Boolean expressions and their associations are stored within a database.

24. (new): The method of claim 19, wherein some of said plurality of possible answers associated with said satisfied Boolean expressions contain a link to additional information available by way of a computer network in communication with said computer.

25. (new): A computer implemented method of organizing information comprising:

organizing said information into a plurality of answers to possible queries;

for a particular one of said answers postulating at least one natural language query, to which said particular one of said answers is responsive;

formulating a Boolean expression from said at least one natural language query, said Boolean expression satisfied by said at least one query;

storing said Boolean expression in association with said particular one of said answers.